

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 CU-02 HEW-02 EA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 220817Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1475

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN

SUBJ: NEPALESE REACTION TO SIKKIM EVENTS

REF: KATHMANDU 1743; NEW DELHI 5359

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, KATHMANDU PRESS COMMENTARY ON SIKKIM EVENTS CONTINUES TO BE REMARKABLY LOW KEY. OFFICIAL PRESS HAS TOTALLY IGNORED ISSUE AND GIVEN NO PUBLICITY TO ANY LOCAL PROTEST EITHER BY SIKKIMESE OR NEPALESE. PARTISAN VERNACULAR PRESS HAS COMMENTED ALONG PREDICTABLE LINES. PAPERS SUCH AS SAMAJ, JAGRITI AND ARPAN SYMPATHETIC TO CHINESE HAVE CRITICIZED INDIAN ACTIONS; PRO-INDIAN AND PRO-SOVIET PAPERS SUCH AS SAMIKSHA AND COMMONER HAVE PUT BLAME SQUARELY ON CHOGYAL'S SHOULDERS AND IMPLICITLY ENDORSED INDIAN ACTIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH INDIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED ACTIVITIES OF S.S. RASAILLY (NEW DELHI 5120) HIS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO PRESS ATTENTION IN KATHMANDU. EMBASSY APRIL 13 RECEIVED SIGNED COPY OF A PRESS STATEMENT DRAFTED BY RASAILLY ON BEHALF OF SIKKIM BLAME PROTEST JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE WHICH STRONGLY CONDEMNED INDIAN ACTION AND REQUESTED

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SUPPORT OF WORLD POWERS TO STOP "THIS AGGRESSION AND

INJUSTICE ON A SMALL, LANDLOCKED COUNTRY" (TEXT BEING
POUCHED). RAISAILLY HAS NOT BEEN IN PERSONAL TOUCH WITH
EMBOFFS SINCE LAST SEPT. CHINESE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE APRIL
18, CITING AFP ALSO QUOTED RASAILLY'S CONDEMNATION OF INDIAN
"AGGRESSION". IN ADDITION EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER ADDRESSED TO
PRINCIPAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FROM TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
CONDEMNING "MILITARISM OF INDIAN EXPANSIONISM" AND DEMANDING
THAT SIKKIM BE RECOGNIZED AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN NATION.
ACCORDING TO RECTOR OF TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, STUDENTS
HAVE NOT BEEN UNDULY EXERCISED BY SIKKIM EVENTS. THERE
WAS BRIEF ONE-DAY PROTEST STRIKE APRIL 17 AT KIRTIPUR
CAMPUS ABOUT WHICH THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS COMMENT; OTHER
CAMPUSES HAVE BEEN QUIET.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE STRENGTH
OF NEPALESE PRIVATE OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF SIKKIM,
THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DEFUSING IT AS A
PUBLIC ISSUE. THERE WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE SOME
CRITICISM OF INDIAN POLICY IN THE VERNACULAR PRESS BUT IT
WILL BE KEPT WITHIN BOUNDS AS GON CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS
TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF LAST SUMMER'S CONFRONTATION IMD
INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS. CARGO

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